

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 19 of 1895.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 11th May 1895.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.		CALCUTTA.			
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677	...	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganiyasi" ...	Ditto	" 5,000	4th May 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 20,000		
3	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	" 4,000		
4	"Mihir" ...	Ditto	.....	4th ditto.	
5	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	1st ditto.	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	3rd ditto.	
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	" 3,000	4th ditto.	
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	" 800	6th ditto.	
9	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	" 3,000		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	" 200	4th and 6th May 1895.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	" 200	5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th May 1895.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	" 500	3rd, 6th, and 8th May 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	" 1,000	3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th May 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" 800		
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 9,000	6th May 1895.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	.....	3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th May 1895.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto	About 400	2nd May 1895.	
2	"General and Gauharisafi" ...	Ditto	" 300		
BENGALI.		BURDWAN DIVISION.			
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	" 500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	" 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	30th April 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500		
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	5th May 1895.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	3rd ditto.	
BENGALI.		PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	280	1st May 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	3rd ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
URIYA.						
ORISSA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....
Weekly.						
1	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190			
2	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309			
3	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412			
4	"Sambalpur Patriot" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....
HINDI.						
PATNA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500			
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000			
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	29th April 1895.		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400			
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150			
BENGALI.						
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.						
Weekly.						
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	3rd May 1895.	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	1st ditto.		
3	"Rangpur Diprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	.....	
BENGALI.						
DACCA DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280	27th April 1895.		
Weekly.						
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	30th ditto.		
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450			
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Ditto ...	250	4th May 1895.		
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	500	2nd ditto.		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	6th May 1895.		
BENGALI.						
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	.....	27th April 1895.	
Weekly.						
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120			
BENGALI.						
ASSAM.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	240		* Entry based on information supplied by the Deputy Postmaster-General, Assam.	
2	"Srihattavasi" ...	Ditto ...	* 160	1st fortnight Baisak, 1902 B.S.		

Name of Newspaper		Date of Publication		Number of Pages	
The Daily News		1890		10	
The Evening Star		1891		12	
The Morning Post		1892		14	
The Daily Telegraph		1893		16	
The London Standard		1894		18	
The Times		1895		20	
The Daily Mail		1896		22	
The Morning Chronicle		1897		24	
The Daily Express		1898		26	
The London News		1899		28	
The Daily Worker		1900		30	
The Daily News		1901		32	
The Evening Star		1902		34	
The Morning Post		1903		36	
The Daily Telegraph		1904		38	
The London Standard		1905		40	
The Times		1906		42	
The Daily Mail		1907		44	
The Morning Chronicle		1908		46	
The Daily Express		1909		48	
The London News		1910		50	
The Daily Worker		1911		52	
The Daily News		1912		54	
The Evening Star		1913		56	
The Morning Post		1914		58	
The Daily Telegraph		1915		60	
The London Standard		1916		62	
The Times		1917		64	
The Daily Mail		1918		66	
The Morning Chronicle		1919		68	
The Daily Express		1920		70	
The London News		1921		72	
The Daily Worker		1922		74	
The Daily News		1923		76	
The Evening Star		1924		78	
The Morning Post		1925		80	
The Daily Telegraph		1926		82	
The London Standard		1927		84	
The Times		1928		86	
The Daily Mail		1929		88	
The Morning Chronicle		1930		90	
The Daily Express		1931		92	
The London News		1932		94	
The Daily Worker		1933		96	
The Daily News		1934		98	
The Evening Star		1935		100	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Sanjivani* of the 4th May has the following:—

SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1895.

The Chitral question. British policy in regard to Chitral has all along been a policy of indirect rule without direct interference—a policy which has been given effect to by making the Mehtar a puppet in the hand of the Political Agent of Gilgit and pulling the string from a distance. This easy-going policy, however, has led to disaster. Actuated by this policy, the British Government declined to comply with the late Mehtar's request for a British garrison in Chitral for his personal protection. But it did not at the same time retire from the scene altogether. The consequence of all this was that the Mehtar was assassinated in his own palace, there was an *imbroglio*, and the British Government came to be involved in it. An expedition had to be sent which cost men and money. And although there is for the time being an end of the matter, we cannot agree with Dr. Robertson in thinking that the Chitral problem has been solved once for all. To our mind, the future of Chitral is still shrouded in mystery and full of dark forebodings.

In this Chitral affair the Government has all along shown a lamentable want of judgment and foresight. Thinking that Chitral possesses immense strategic importance, it tried to establish its influence there by inducing the Government of Cashmere to bring it within the sphere of its influence, and by paying an annual subsidy to the ruling chief of Chitral. The first blunder that the Government committed in connection with Chitral was to act under the delusion that it could maintain its supremacy by indirect means in a country where rulers are eternally changing, and where the right of sovereignty is determined by the law of might. The Government ought not at all to have taken any part, direct or indirect, in the government of Chitral. But when it did so, it ought to have from the very beginning made its influence strongly felt by stationing a garrison there. But blunder leads to blunder, and a wrong act once committed necessitates the commission of many others. The second blunder the British Government committed was to recognise the right of Amir-ul-Mulk, the murderer of his brother, to the Mehtarship. Sher Afzul was a far better man and had a far better right to the throne of Chitral, and the Government could have easily smoothed down every difficulty by making him Mehtar instead of Amir, who is now declared to be worthless as a ruler. But the blundering policy of the Government did not stop here. The last and most serious blunder it committed was to take part in the Chitral *imbroglio* without a strong force at its back—even without sufficient means of defence in the enemy's country.

The Government cannot, therefore, take any credit to itself for wisdom or political insight for having brought the Chitral war to a successful close. It sent a mighty expedition against Umra Khan. Umra Khan has fled from his territory, and with his flight the purpose of the expedition has been achieved. But, strange to say, this very Umra Khan, against whom the expedition was sent and whom it is proposed to arrest and confine in India, did not strike a single blow at the British army of expedition, did not touch a single hair on the head of any man of the British garrison in Chitral, who were entirely at his mercy, and did not place the least obstacle in the way of the British army marching against him. The fact is that Umra Khan was never hostile towards the British Government, that the report of his hostility was without a foundation, and that the Government relied upon a baseless rumour in sending a costly expedition to Chitral, which was enormously out of proportion to the requirements of the case. In truth, the Chitral expedition has been a grand *fiasco*, and there has been no war worth the name. If there is any credit due to any person in this affair, it is due to Umra Khan, who possessed the power to oppose the British army, but willingly allowed it to gain an easy victory.

But although the Chitral difficulty is now over and British influence is re-established there, the British Government should not expect to have an easy time of it in governing the country. It will now have to station a garrison in Chitral permanently, which it refused to do when called upon by the late Mehtar. But the British garrison in Chitral may in future prove a source of danger and difficulty. Moreover, the presence of the British Government in Chitral may be a signal for the hostility of a powerful foreign power. Russia is already

giving a broad hint of its hostility to the British Government and of its intention to create a difficulty in the Pamirs in spite of the new treaty, in the event of the latter declining to side with her in her interference with the Japan-o-Chinese treaty. We therefore think that the Chitral question is far from being settled, that the end of one difficulty may be but the beginning of another, and that in settling the question of succession in Chitral, the Government may be drawn into further complications.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
May 7th, 1895.

2. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 7th May writes as follows:—

The Chitral question.

Lord Roberts is advocating the policy of making a road to Chitral, and it is said that Lord Elgin is being urged by his military advisers to accept without demur the proposal of the late Commander-in-Chief of India. The current of events also goes far to prove the truth of this. A road is already in course of construction in Swat, and the Swat river is going to be bridged. In the opinion of Sir James Lyall, the late Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, the proposed road to Chitral is likely to cost the Government about a crore of rupees. It will run through the territories of many friendly Sardars, who will naturally resent any trespass into the privacy of their mountain fastnesses, and the road will therefore have to be constructed at the cost of rousing the hostility of many independent mountain tribes. At the same time, the road thus constructed at the expense of the Indian people will very likely serve Russia in good stead if she ever ventures to undertake the impossible task of invading India by the way of the Pamirs. Lord Roberts himself was at one time strongly in favour of the policy of keeping the mountain passes in the frontiers inaccessible to foreign invaders, and his past policy therefore, as the *Pioneer* shows, contradicts his present policy. To be in close touch with a mountain station beyond the frontiers the Government will have to maintain there a strong garrison, for a small force will not be sufficient to cope with all the possible difficulties in connection with its frontier policy. The disaster in Chitral was due solely to the fact of there not having been kept a strong force in that place to meet the emergencies of troublous times, and the disaster may, under similar circumstances, repeat itself.

But it is not quite feasible to permanently maintain a strong garrison beyond the frontiers. The same reason which demands the stationing of a strong force in Chitral demands the stationing of strong garrisons in Bajaur, Swat and Dir; but in adopting this course the Government will have to make a permanent addition of ten or fifteen thousand men to the Indian army. Such an addition will mean an additional expenditure which it will be simply impossible for the Indian people to bear. But there is no knowing what the Government of India may do. The Jingoism is all-powerful in India, and the British Ministry, who well know that England will not have to pay a farthing of the expenditure that is to be incurred, will not hesitate to sanction the policy which the Jingoism may dictate to the Government and induce it to adopt.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Charu Mihir* of the 30th April writes as follows:—

CHARU MIHIR,
April 30th, 1895

The Muktagacha police.

Some time ago we referred to the deposition made by one Sakhicharan Bairagi in the Muktagacha police station, that while returning home from the Brahmaputra bathing festival, his companion, Saudamini Baishnavi, was taken away forcibly by a band of ruffians. The Sub-Inspector of Muktagacha had so long been investigating the case. Strange to say, however, he has not sent up any person, although he came to possess sufficient evidence incriminating the men with whom the woman was seen. The offenders are thus let off scot-free, and, what is more to be regretted, even the whereabouts of the abducted woman are not traced. This reflects great discredit on the Muktagacha police. We cannot believe that they could not have found out the whereabouts of the woman or arrested the offenders if they had taken as much care to do so as the Syamganj police did in a similar case. We hope the District Superintendent of Police will cause a further inquiry to be made into the matter.

4. A correspondent of the same paper comments on the explanation submitted by the Sub-Inspector of Jamalpur, in the district of Mymensingh, regarding news published some time ago in that paper, to the effect that a dead body was found on the Jamalpur road, partly devoured by jackals, but that it was not removed by the police to the hospital before it was cremated. The Sub-Inspector says, in explanation, that there were no marks of blood on the body; that the dead body was that of a man who must have died from natural causes, that it must have been devoured by jackals after the man was dead; and that it was not removed to the hospital simply because there is no accommodation in it for in-door patients. The Sub-Inspector further states that the correspondent who supplied the Mymensingh paper with the above information was perhaps disappointed in getting some service done by the police and has therefore a motive in falsely reporting against it. It is not known whether the Magistrate is satisfied with the Sub-Inspector's explanation, but he evidently does not believe his statement about the Jamalpur Hospital, as he has already asked the Deputy Magistrate and the Municipal Chairman to inquire into the truth of the Sub-Inspector's allegation. This allegation, to say the least of it, is absolutely false, as everybody in Jamalpur knows that the local hospital is an in-door one, and it is very strange that the Sub-Inspector, who lives only a few yards off, should be ignorant of this fact. If it is true, his experience of the place is miserably poor and he ought not to be retained in a post of responsibility.

CHARU MITRA,
April 30th, 1895.

5. The *Samay* of the 3rd May complains that even before the monsoons have set in, rain gambling is in full swing in Calcutta. It is a matter of regret that the police, instead of putting down this objectionable practice, has rather encouraged it by allowing the Marwaris to carry on their trade in their old haunts under the usual restrictions. The Police Commissioner has gone so far as to tell off a constable to be always on duty in the gambling place to see that the usual rules of gambling are strictly observed by the players. It is an irony of fate that while this objectionable practice has been put down in Bombay, it is being countenanced by the police in Calcutta, notwithstanding the protests of the Calcutta press against its continuance.

SAMAY,
May 3rd, 1895.

6. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 4th May apprehends an outbreak between the Shiahhs and Sunnis of Hooghly. Satires directed against the Sunnis are in wide circulation in the town.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 4th, 1895.

7. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th May writes as follows:—
Oppression by a Mymensingh zamindar. Babu Rajani Kanta Roy is talukdar of Lahunda, in the Kishorganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district. He is also a public officer, serving in the double capacity of an Honorary Magistrate and Vice-Chairman of the Local Board. But we are sorry to say that he is misusing his power and responsibility as a public officer at the same time that he, as a talukdar, is maltreating his raiyats. The following are the particulars of a case in which the Babu was charged with having wrongfully confined one of his tenants:—

SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1895.

Some time in the month of March 1894, one Garibulla, a chaukidar, deposed in the Kishorganj police station as well as before the local Deputy Magistrate, Babu Kailas Gobinda Das, that Rajani Babu's men had forcibly taken away and wrongfully confined his brother, Kangali Shaik. The local police, however, neglected to pay proper attention to his complaint, and he was obliged to bring the matter to the notice of the District Magistrate, who ordered the police to make a searching inquiry. The result of the inquiry was that two peons of the Babu, Sunder Singh and Sarat Singh by name, were arrested by the police, and were sent up for trial under section 143 of the Indian Penal Code. They were tried by the local Deputy Magistrate, and sentenced each to undergo imprisonment for two weeks and to pay a fine of Rs. 25. On their behalf, however, Babu Rajani Kanta appealed to the District Judge who, on hearing the appeal dismissed it and passed a judgment expressing great dissatisfaction with the lightness of the punishment and drawing the attention of the District Magistrate to the case as well as to the maltreatment of his raiyats by Rajani Babu. We give the judgment in full.

High Court Criminal 2636 No. (7), 110 (old No. 72) Court of Session. Appellate Jurisdiction. The 26th November 1894. Criminal Appeal No. 53 (d) of 1894. Appeal from the order of Babu Kailas Gobinda Das, Deputy Magistrate of Kishorganj, dated 6th November 1894.

1. Ram Sunder Sing (*alias* Sunder Singh), 2. Robi Luchan (*alias* Robi Singh) Appellants. Babu Syama Charan Roy, Pleader for appellants. Appellants sentenced each to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 25 each; in default to one week's rigorous imprisonment more under section 143, I. P. C.

This case has been very carefully tried by the Deputy Magistrate, and I am of opinion that the evidence on this fully justifies his finding that the appellants were included in the party of men who seized and carried off Kangali Sheikh.

They doubtless formed an unlawful assembly, and have been properly convicted of an offence under section 143, I. P. C. It is to be regretted that the learned Deputy Magistrate allowed himself to be led away by the so-called "clever" arguments of the pleader for the accused. It is not necessary in order to constitute the offence of wrongful confinement that a person should be confined within the four walls or bound. Kangali Sheikh was carrying paddy homewards, and was seized and made to go in another direction against his will. This in itself was sufficient to constitute the offence of wrongful confinement. The appellants ought to have been convicted of that offence, and the fact that Kangali Sheikh has not been since heard of by his relations, makes the case so very serious that the Deputy Magistrate would have been quite justified in imposing the full penalty provided by the law, in the absence of reason for supposing that Kangali Sheikh was keeping out of the way deliberately. It is clear that in the circumstances the case cannot be allowed to rest here, and I would invite the special attention of the Magistrate of the district to the case.

I think that Rajani Kanta Roy or his servants should be called to account for the oppression of his tenants which is disclosed by this case.

The appeal is dismissed.

F. H. HARDINGE.

The 26th November 1894.

To—The Subdivisional Officer.

For full report on the case and his proposal. What does he propose to do to Rajani Kanta Roy and his servants? Does he propose presently for binding down? Does he recommend his Honorary Magistrate's power being taken away?

F. H. HARDINGE.

The 28th November 1894.

The defendants moved the High Court against the decision of the Sessions Judge, but the Hon'ble Judges of that Court declined to interfere in the matter. Since then a period of five months has elapsed without the Sessions Judge's order being given effect to. The complainant had applied to the Deputy Magistrate for the issue of a summons against Rajani Babu, calling upon him to show cause why he should not be bound down to keep the peace. But the Deputy Magistrate has not yet done anything in connection with this application. The District Superintendent of Police recently made an enquiry into the matter, and Garibulla deposed before him that Rajani Babu's men had put Kangali Sheikh to death. The result of this police inquiry is not known to the public who are, however, surprised to see Rajani Babu, the principal offender, still at large. The fact is that the police and the executive authorities generally take the side of the powerful oppressors of the poor and helpless raiyats, who have, under such circumstances, absolutely no remedy against the zamindars. If this scandalous state of affairs is not soon mended, the poor raiyats in the mufassal will find it almost impossible to keep their lives and property safe. In the present case the Kishorganj police, as well as the local Deputy Magistrate, have shown a lamentable weakness in the discharge of their duty. It has almost become a part and parcel of the nature of the Mymensingh zamindars to oppress their raiyats, to assault them and to wrongfully confine them in their cutcherries.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

8. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 1st May, writes as follows:—

The Azimganj Munsifi question.

The suggestion made in a recent issue of this paper, that the Azimganj Munsifi in the Murshidabad district, instead of being abolished, should be converted into a subdivision, with head-quarters at Bhagirathpur (see Report on Native Papers for 27th April, paragraph 14), is not a good one. The proposed conversion will be a source of the greatest inconvenience to the people of all the four thanas Jalangi, Goas, Naoda, and Bhagavangola. After the construction of the proposed road from Sankarpur to Bhagirathpur, the latter place will become easily accessible only from Berhampore, but not from any place included in the four thanas. In the rainy season in particular the proposed head-quarters station can be reached only by means of boats, and that with the greatest difficulty. As there is a good road from Berhampore through Daulatabad and Islampur to Jalangi, and another from Bhagavangola to Goas, it would be better to constitute a subdivision with the Jalangi, Goas, Daulatabad, and Bhagavangola thanas, with head-quarters at Islampur or some other neighbouring place on the Bhairab river. The transfer of the Noada thana from the Sadar will cause the greatest inconvenience. The three remaining thanas, Ashanpur, Manulla Bazar, and Shahanagar, which are now included in the Lalbagh Munsifi, can be very conveniently transferred to the Sadar.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 1st, 1895.

9. The *Bangavasi* of the 4th May says that recently in the Sessions

The prosecution in Crown cases.

Court of Bankura, two principal witnesses on behalf of the prosecution deposed that the wife of the prisoner was an eye-witness of the crime alleged to have been committed by her husband. But, strangely enough, she was not called as a witness by the Crown. Commenting upon this, the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court says that when the Crown is the prosecutor, care should be taken to deal fairly with both the parties, and never to strengthen the case of the prosecution to the prejudice of the defence. The Government prosecutor should in all cases try his best to put cases before the Judge in their true colour, and afford him every facility to arrive at the truth. It was therefore wrong on the part of the Government prosecutor in the case under notice not to call a witness on the ground that she might not speak the truth. It is not rare to hear such observations from the Bench of the High Court, but it is very seldom that such advice is acted upon.

BANGAVASI,
May 4th, 1895.

10. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 6th May has cause to complain against the

The Bhola Munsifi.

munsifi of Bhola, a subdivision of the Backergunge district. The *amla* are in the habit of extorting money from the suitors in various unlawful ways. In all places the *amla* are a class of underpaid officials addicted to the practice of levying taxes from suitors on their own account, but the Bhola *amla* seem to have greatly outdone their brethren in other places. The Munsifs, who are well aware of their objectionable practice, do not, however, take any steps to put it down. They themselves are not above complaint. One of them has made it a point not to grant compensation to a zamindar against his raiyat in a case in which he gets a decree for arrears of rent for not more than two years. This causes great dissatisfaction, because the zamindars have often to suffer material loss on account of irregularity in the payment of rent by their raiyats. The other Munsif invariably declines to grant a decree-holder the cost of an affidavit which, however, he never forgets to demand from him before he issues orders for the execution of a decree. If it is not a sin to be a decree-holder, it is difficult to understand why one should be thus subjected to what is nothing less than a penalty.

DACCA GAZETTE,
May 6th, 1895.

(d)—Education.

11. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 6th May has a complaint in connection with the last annual examination of the students of the training schools. The objections of the writer may be summarized thus—

The training schools examinations.

DACCA GAZETTE,
May 6th, 1895.

(a) The 5th question in the paper on Bengali literature set to the students of the third-year class was taken from a portion of the text-book not prescribed for the examination

- (b) In the 8th question on mensuration the same students were asked to work a sum on surveying by the plane and the compass, when they are, as a matter of fact, taught only chain-surveying.
- (c) In the paper on Bengali literature set to the third-year students only 6 marks were awarded to questions from the *Meghnadbadh*, the principal text-book in Bengali poetry while in the paper on Sanskrit literature, the principal text-book, the *Raghuvansam*, had a very small number of questions taken from it, by far the largest number of questions having been set from such a comparatively unimportant book as *Rajupath*, Part III.
- (d) In more than one question the examiner made a show of his learning by asking the candidates to give the derivation of such words as *akhandal* and *sakshat*.
- (e) In the trigonometry paper set to the second-year students a question was made needlessly obscure and misleading through the oversight of the examiner.
- (f) Last year no paper on drawing was set to the second-year students, and they were not therefore prepared for a paper on that subject this year. But without any previous notice whatever, the second-year students were examined in drawing. The third-year students also found the paper on drawing very stiff, as questions were set from portions of the text books which they were not taught by their drawing master, whose remissness in this matter should meet with strong disapprobation.

In conclusion, the writer asks the Director of Public Instruction to see that in awarding marks the mistakes of the examiner are rectified, and that the marks awarded to questions set from portions of text-books not prescribed for the examination are not counted by the examiners.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BHARAT MITRA,
May 3rd, 1895.

12. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 3rd May says that the Calcutta Municipality proposes to substitute electric light for gas lamps in the town. This substitution will cause inconvenience to the public, because electric lights, as judged by those which at present burn in Harrison Road, do not burn steadily.

MIHIR,
May 4th, 1895.

13. The *Mihir* of the 4th May cannot understand why the Calcutta Municipality should publish its advertisements only in the Hindu papers. The Musalman residents of the town have a right to demand that the municipal advertisements should also be published for their information in the organs of their own community. The Musalmans are no longer a sleeping people, and now that they are awake, they are determined to stand upon their rights. On the 27th March last the Secretary to the Corporation wrote a letter to the editor which led him to expect that municipal advertisements would be published in future in Musalman papers as well. But it appears that the Secretary only played a hoax.

MIHIR.

14. The same paper has the following:—

The Musalmans in local self-government.

The rule made by Government that in the Lahore and Bombay Municipalities the Hindu rate-payers should vote for Hindu candidates for Commissionerships, and Musalman rate-payers for Musalman candidates, ought to be introduced into all local self-government bodies in Bengal. The absence of such a rule has filled the Municipalities, District Boards, and Local Boards in Bengal with Hindu members, who pay scant attention to the interests of the Musalmans. The writer remembers an instance in which the Musalman residents of a locality having submitted a petition to the District Board for the metalling of the road passing through the place, the Hindu members of the Board rejected their prayer, saying that the road was not used by respectable men, meaning of course, by Hindus. Nothing can be more unjust than that the Musalmans should pay all the rates equally with the Hindus, but the Hindus alone should reap all

the benefits of self-government. This is an injustice to the Musalman community, which can be in some measure removed by restricting the exercise of the right of voting in the manner indicated. At present the Musalmans are oppressed not only by the Hindu members of District and Local Boards, but also by their relatives, to whom are given all contracts for works. These contractors take public money, but never perform their work satisfactorily. To take an instance: a bridge has this year been constructed at Kusumgram on the road leading from that village to Burdwan town. The contractor who undertook the work received the money granted for its construction, but constructed the bridge with mud and five cart-loads of bricks obtained by him as a token of charity from a local Musalman zamindar. Only the arches of the bridge are masonry work; all the rest is mud.

The writer wants to know why contracts for works in the Burdwan district are given only to Hindu contractors. On the 28th April last an advertisement was published by the Burdwan District Board in the *Dainik*, giving the names of the roads to be repaired, and inviting tenders. But why was not the advertisement published in a Musalman paper also? Is it because the District Board members, who are mostly Hindus, want Hindus alone to take their contracts?

15. A correspondent of the *Darsak* of the 5th May has the following complaints to make against the Sonamukhi Municipality in the Bankura district—

DARSAK,
May 5th, 1895.

- (1) The municipality entertains 13 mehters, when 8 or 9 would be enough.
- (2) The sowing of the municipal garden with seeds brought from Calcutta is a costly practice, which yields no return and entails loss every year.
- (3) There was no necessity for constructing a masonry platform round the well in the municipal garden at a cost of Rs. 125.
- (4) The appointment of the tax-daroga to the post of the clerk and of a tax-collector to the post of the tax-daroga will be open to serious objection. Competent candidates for the posts should be invited by public advertisements.

16. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 9th May has the following:—

The Calcutta Municipality in the epidemics.

In reference to the outbreak of cholera and small-pox in Calcutta this year, Dr. Simpson, the Health Officer of the Calcutta Municipality, said the other day that such an outbreak of epidemics there will be in this city every fifth year. But if Calcutta is to suffer so fearfully every fifth year without its Health Officer being able to relieve its suffering, why should not the Corporation dispense with the services of the Health Officer every fifth year, and save so much money? Where is the need of a highly-paid Health Officer if he can neither prevent epidemics, nor be of use to the rate-payers when epidemics break out?

SULABH DAINIK,
May 9th, 1895.

The Calcutta Municipality is always indifferent to urgent matters of sanitation. Though cholera rages as an epidemic throughout the year, the municipal authorities do nothing to check it. It takes no action in regard to the open drains which still exist in certain lanes, and which give out unbearable stench. Two men living near such drains lately died in the Badurbagan quarter. During cholera seasons the Chinsura and Baranagore Municipalities use disinfectants very largely, but the Calcutta Municipality does nothing of the kind. It does nothing to prevent the stench which fills every house in Calcutta, nor do people get disinfectants from it by making repeated demands for the same themselves. It is true the mehters have been instructed during this epidemic to cleanse privies very carefully, but they seldom do so where they expect no reward. Cholera rages more violently in the native than in the European quarter, simply because there is all the difference between heaven and hell between the two quarters in cleanliness and sanitation. This is certainly not creditable to the municipal authorities.

It will not do for Dr. Simpson to say that there will be an epidemic in Calcutta every five years, and to satisfy himself that he has made his defence

and that he need do nothing more. The people of Calcutta pay a tax of 19½ per cent.; and the municipality must be guilty of a grave neglect of duty if it shows such indifference to the question of their life and death.

(h)—General.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 1st, 1895.

17. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 1st May draws the attention of the Special Sub-Registrar of Berhampore to the delay which takes place in getting deeds back from the registry office. The delay is owing to increase of work without a corresponding increase in the number of copyists. As the increased work is yielding an increased income, the Special Sub-Registrar should move the authorities for one or two additional hands.

Another point in this connection. The want of a rule prescribing the time within which a document presented for registration may be expected to be ready for return causes trouble and inconvenience to poor men, who, having no agents to look after these matters, have to dance attendance themselves at the registry office.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
May 2nd, 1895.

18. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 2nd May objects to the practice of burning the dead bodies of Musalmans dying in hospital. The burning of the bodies of dead people is strictly forbidden by the Muham-

madan religion.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE.

19. The same paper says that though the late Hajji Muhammad Mohsin bequeathed an income of 12 lakhs of rupees to be devoted to the education of the Muhammadan youths of Bengal and to defray the expenses of the Hooghly Imambarah, no one knows up to this time in what manner the fund is being spent. The two-thirds grant-in-aid for Muhammadan students has been suddenly withdrawn from some Government schools. And this has made the public anxious to know the way in which the sacred fund created by Muhammad Mohsin is spent. The official trustee and the Local Government ought to prepare an annual budget of the expenditure of the fund, showing as approximately as possible the amount which is devoted annually to educational purposes and that which is spent for the Hooghly Imambarah and for other purposes.

If this is done, there will be no complaint from the Musalmans about the expenditure of the fund.

BAGURA DARPAN,
May 3rd, 1895.

20. The *Bagura Darpan* of the 3rd May says that it cannot be denied that the practice of throwing dead bodies into rivers—prevailing particularly among the lower classes of Hindus, who cannot always afford the expense of burning their dead—is one of the causes of mufassal unhealthiness. Scarcely a burning ghât in the mufassal, but a dead body or two will be found decomposing in the water there. But in order to put a stop to the practice without at the same time wounding the people's religious sentiments, arrangements enabling every poor man to burn dead bodies without much trouble should be first made. The best arrangement would be to make it a duty of the village panchayet and chaukidars to supply wood for burning purposes, and then to realize the cost in the same way as the chaukidari tax. There should also be allotted a plot of ground in every village for burying the carcasses of dead animals, the panchayets and chaukidars seeing that people bury carcasses in this place, instead of throwing them away.

BANGANIVASI,
May 4th, 1895.

21. In commenting on the Bengal Government's Resolution on the subject of the pollution of water with dead bodies, the *Bangavasi* of the 4th May observes that it may be quite true that dead bodies pollute the water of locked-up rivers and canals, but it will be a great hardship for poor people, who have not the wherewithal to burn or otherwise dispose of dead bodies, if they are on that ground prevented from casting them into rivers and canals. People will have no reason to object to the Government's prohibiting the practice if it at the same time makes suitable arrangements for the cremation of dead bodies or for their disposal in some other way. Otherwise, such a prohibition will be to the poor a source of oppression in the name of sanitation. As regards the throwing of bones into rivers,

the Government should not try to prohibit the practice of throwing them into the Ganges, which is looked upon by the Hindus as one of the most important of their religious practices. They will be very much annoyed and agitated to see the Government openly interfere with their religion in this way. It is to be hoped that the Government will not move in the matter without consulting Hindu public opinion. At the very starting point it should be warned against committing any such blunder.

22. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th May draws the attention of the Government to the miserable condition of the village postmaster.

The village postmaster.

The pay of a village postmaster is generally Rs. 15 a month, but even a native gentleman cannot live upon this miserable pittance. It is not therefore strange that he should avail himself of every opportunity, fair or foul, to put money into his pocket. The village postmaster's responsibility is heavy, and his work most tiresome, his presence being required in the post-office the whole day and night. Those who serve the Government in other departments have a few spare leisure hours, during which they may earn honestly a few additional rupees by employing themselves in sundry other occupations. The village postmaster has not even this advantage. Government should raise the pay of this miserable class of public servants from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20, which pay, considering their responsibility and onerous duties, cannot but be regarded as trifling.

SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1895.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

23. The *Bangavasi* of the 4th May agrees with Mr. Justice Norris in thinking that the very large number of cases of suicide

Unrestricted sale of poisons.

and murder by poison is due to the unrestricted sale of all kinds of poison in this country. The Government will therefore do well to pass a law restricting the sale of poisons, and thus to place some sort of a check on people intending to commit suicide or murder.

24. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th May says that the frequency of suicide in this

Unrestricted sale of poisons.

country is due to the unrestricted sale of poisons. Of all poisons opium is the most frequently resorted to, because it is most easily procured. It is therefore good news that Mr. Justice Norris has resolved to move the Government to pass a law restricting the sale of poisons. With this view he recently asked the jury empanelled to try a poisoning case to petition the Government in the matter, which petition his Lordship has kindly promised to support. It will be a matter of great rejoicing if Mr. Justice Norris' efforts prove successful.

BANGAVASI,
May 4th, 1895.

SANJIVANI,
May 4th, 1895.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

25. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 2nd May has the following

Ill-treatment of Musalmans in certain Native States.

upon the high-handed conduct of some native chiefs towards their Musalman subjects, and prays that Government will do something to protect those Musalmans. For the last few years processions with *tazias* during the Muharram festival have been prohibited throughout the Jodhpur State, and the Musalmans of that State cannot now-a-days observe their religious ceremonies as freely as we do under the auspicious rule of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. Cow-killing in that State is strictly forbidden. The Musalman subjects of the Nabha State are not permitted to recite the *azan* at prayer time, and in performing other customary rites they very often meet with obstruction. The Musalman subjects of the Jhind State also are not allowed to repeat the *azan*. About two or three years ago a riot broke out between the Hindu and Musalman subjects of the State in connection with the slaughter of a cow. The cruelty of the Hindu officers of the State towards the Musalmans who were implicated in the case defies all powers of description.

DARUSSALTANAT,
AND URDU GUIDE,
May 2nd, 1895.

26. The *Bangavasi* of the 4th May observes that it is not politic on the

The Maharaja of Bhurtpore.

part of the Government to hesitate to give out to the public the grounds on which the Maharaja of Bhurtpore has been deposed. No one will have anything to say against his deposition if he is really guilty; but if the public are not acquainted with the nature of his guilt or the reasons of his deposition, the apprehension now in their mind in this connection is not likely to be allayed.

BANGAVASI,
May 4th, 1895.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SAHACHAR,
May 1st, 1895.

27. The *Sahachar* of the 1st May blames Sir Charles Elliott for his refusal to make a grant of money to the Calcutta Municipality in order to enable it to cope more fully with the prevailing epidemics of cholera and small-pox, and says that though in making the refusal the Lieutenant-Governor said that the epidemics were confined to Calcutta, the real fact is that both the diseases have spread throughout the province. In the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district 600 deaths are said to be taking place every week from cholera, and though figures for other places are not available, there can be little doubt that they are very heavy, and are rapidly increasing. It is therefore the duty of Government to come forward to the people's relief without hesitation or delay. No medical help worth the name being available in the mufassal, except in a few big towns, doctors and medicine should be sent forthwith, and the Sanitary Commissioner should be directed to draw up a set of sanitary rules to be observed during cholera epidemics, and to cause them to be published. It is also high time for Government to direct its attention to the supply of good drinking water. Last year it had a surplus in the budget, and it can easily afford to remove the grievance. The prohibition of the practice of throwing dead bodies into rivers has been a step in the right direction; but if other steps are not taken to provide good drinking water, this prohibition alone will do little in the way of removing the causes of epidemics in the mufassal.

ASSAM PAPERS.

SRIHATTAVASI,
First Fortnight of
Baisakh, 1302 B.S.

28. The *Srihattavasi* for the first fortnight of *Baisakh* has the following:—
“We are credibly informed that in view of the heavy file in the Subordinate Judge's court here, our esteemed District Judge, Mr. Greaves, has proposed an extension of the jurisdiction of some of the Munsifs in the district, enabling them to take cognizance of suits up to the value of Rs. 2,000. Of course we had no opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the reasoning that led Mr. Greaves to forward this proposal to the Hon'ble High Court. But of one thing we are certain, and that is, his proposal to appoint an additional Subordinate Judge, which was rejected not long ago by the Local Government on the ground of its inability to meet the necessary cost.

We confess we do not find language sufficient to deprecate this spirit of the Government making money out of the administration of justice, and the pity is that the members of Sir James Westland's “most distinguished service in the world” do not feel themselves humiliated at this sad spectacle of a great Christian Government unblushingly telling the people that they cannot afford to pay all that they receive by way of court-fees. They can spend millions and millions of money to follow a forward military policy beyond the frontiers, but whenever they are called upon to spend a few thousand rupees to improve the administration of justice, their invariable plea is “no money to meet the cost.” This reminds us of a saying of an old woman asking for justice to that mighty conqueror of the twelfth century, Sultan Mahmud: “Keep no more territory than you can manage properly.” A reference to the Administration Report of Assam for the year 1893-94 will show that the surplus of receipts over expenditure in Sylhet alone under the head “Civil Justice” was Rs. 70,967, and that in course of a year only, viz. 1893. Now if this proposal of posting an additional Subordinate Judge were accepted by the Local Government, the step would only necessitate an additional expenditure of Rs. 10,000 or so a year, or in other words less than one-seventh of their total profit which they could make in that year. Failing in that just proposal, it is not unlikely that Mr. Greaves should come forward to submit this extension scheme to the Hon'ble High Court, impressed as he seems to be with the hard work of the Subordinate Judge. This being the case, we would be wanting in our duty to the public if we fail to enter our firm but respectful protest against this extension of the powers of the Munsifs. The public feeling, as we have been able to ascertain it, seems to be one of unanimous condemnation. We are aware of the existence of section 19 of Act XII of 1887, enabling the Local Government to so extend the jurisdiction of the munsifs on the recommendation of the High Court. But although the Act in

question has passed some eight or nine years ago, the provision made by the section in question has been very rarely resorted to, even in the more advanced province of Bengal, where public opinion is far more strong than in Assam. Then there are other grounds, equally strong, to object to the proposed extension. We do not know whether each subdivision in the district is going to have at least one Munsif competent to try cases having a value of Rs. 2,000. If that be the case, we must deal separately with each subdivision. The Munsifs that we have in Habiganj are certainly as hardworked as any to be found in the Presidency of Bengal. That being so, any extension of powers that may lead to more work in their case is sure to be fraught with evils of greater magnitude than what is sought to be done away with. This also seems to be the case with Moulavi Bazar Munsifs. The work of the Karimganj and Sadar Munsifs is comparatively light, but that is no reason why they should have so extensive powers over the property of men. It happens—and not rarely—that junior people are sent out here as Munsifs, and if people like these are allowed to have so extensive powers, it is quite probable that miscarriage of justice will often occur. Of course we do not mean to say that no Munsif, however able, is competent to try such suits, but on the contrary we hold that some Munsifs may be available equally competent to try such suits. But the difficulty lies in locating them permanently here. Besides, the Local Government is as a rule averse to secure the services of the best men in the service, as that involves always a greater expenditure. Another very important fact should not be also lost sight of in this connection. It sometimes happens that junior members of this Bar—the seniors not caring to go—are appointed to officiate in Karimganj and Sonamganj, which have only one Munsif to preside over the civil administration of justice; and if the privilege attaches to the office, we must say that this extension of powers would by no means be safe. This being the case, from whatever point of view we look at the proposal, it seems to us impracticable. If the Government is determined not to post another Subordinate Judge here, the only suggestion that we have to make is that a talented 1st grade Subordinate Judge should be placed here, and that done, we are sure that the file which is considered heavy is bound to be light, and the difficulty in the present situation obviated.”

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 11th May 1895.

